

percent of California's electricity; and it is an obvious answer, I believe, to our energy needs.

The nuclear science and engineering programs in our universities are crucial to this research in that they provide the critical foundation for our nuclear industry.

□ 1830

Currently support for nuclear science and engineering programs is at a 35-year low. H.R. 2126 authorizes a critical investment of roughly \$240 million over 5 years from the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, this modest investment will ensure that nuclear power will be able to meet California's needs and this Nation's demands. It is imperative that this crucial piece of legislation receives our support.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS BUSH ENERGY PLAN

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a lot about how big oil and big energy companies are picking on California. We are told they are gouging their citizens and only price controls can stop this. Has anyone asked the question, Why California? Why are the big oil and energy companies not picking on Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio or New York?

Maybe it is because they are not picking on anyone at all. Energy costs are high across the country, but energy prices are higher in California because that State has prevented through burdensome regulations the construction of new power plants for the last 10 years. The prices that the rest of the country is paying are high because we are trying to meet today's needs with yesterday's energy infrastructure, and it is not working.

Our energy demands have increased 47 percent over the past 30 years, and yet we have half as many oil refineries, static pipeline capacity and 20 times as many mandated gasoline blends.

Low prices throughout the 1980s and 1990s have lulled American consumers and producers into a belief that low prices will always be here. But we know now that is not true.

President Bush has proposed the first comprehensive energy plan in a decade that will increase efficiency, improve how our energy is delivered, diversify our energy sources, protect the environment and assist low-income Americans through these current price increases.

I suggest we get off the rhetorical high horse and get to work passing this energy plan.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TROPICAL STORM ALLISON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share some more stories on the devastation left in my hometown of Houston by Tropical Storm Allison. From Tuesday, June 5, when landfall was made through Sunday, June 10, when the rains began to taper off and the water began to recede, it is now estimated that over \$4 billion of damage was done by this seemingly minor tropical storm. It also cost 23 lives in the Houston area. Of course this storm not only damaged Houston, but also Louisiana, Mississippi; and it dumped a great deal of water in Pennsylvania this past weekend.

For my colleagues not from coastal areas, this was just a tropical storm. Damage was exclusively from flooding. There was no damage from high winds, tornadoes or other weather events had it been a full-blown hurricane.

While many areas of Houston had significant flooding, the 29th district was particularly hard hit. Many of the city's bayous run through my district. Bayous such as Hunting and Greens, overflowed their banks, causing widespread flooding in businesses and residential areas.

Over 10,000 residents were forced from their homes by Greens Bayou alone, as flooding reached the 1,000-year flood level. Even those who were not flooded out of their residences suffered thousands of dollars worth of damage to their homes and personal belongings.

Damage estimates for homes have not yet been completed, but the total is significant. 303 homes totally destroyed; 12,451 with major damage and are uninhabitable; and 20,491 homes have minor damage, with families able to at least partially begin the process of moving back in.

I would like to thank the Federal Energy Management Agency, FEMA, for their prompt response in the Houston area. Almost as soon as the rains stopped, FEMA personnel were establishing a command center in the Greens Point area and setting up disaster relief centers where victims could register for home inspections, SBA loans, or temporary housing assistance and other Federal benefits, along with State agencies in these centers.

As of 6 p.m. last night, 47,000 people had registered with FEMA on their toll-free hot line; over 41,000 have registered for the disaster housing pro-

gram; and \$17 million in funding has been approved. For individual and family grant programs, almost 17,500 registrations have been received; and nearly \$13 million in funding has been approved.

I would like to recognize the thousands of volunteers from the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army in their role in the recovery process. These organizations quickly opened shelters for those driven from their homes. They have provided more than 800,000 meals to victims of this disaster and currently are offering additional aid so that individuals can begin to replace clothing and other belongings that were ruined or swept away during the floods. Also our Army, Air Force and National Guard, and AmeriCorps, and numerous other government agencies have contributed to helping Houstonians and people who live in Harris County clean up and begin the long process of rebuilding their lives.

The task ahead of us, though, is going to be long and arduous. For example, the damage to our hospitals will place a heavy burden on our health care infrastructure for the near future. Let me share some of the numbers: in my district, East Houston Medical Center, complete evacuation for 2 or 3 months before reopening; maybe 1 year for complete restoration.

Hermann Memorial Hospital, one of our two Tier I trauma centers in Houston, evacuated and closed for an estimated 6 to 8 weeks.

Methodist Hospital closed due to extensive damage, potential partial reopening this week, but 6 months to restore completely.

St. Luke's Hospital, their emergency room suffered extensive damage. Six months to 1 year for complete restoration.

St. Joseph's Hospital, emergency room closed for extensive damage, 3 to 6 months before reopening, and 1 year before complete restoration.

Northwest Columbia Hospital, closed and unable to operate possibly for 1 year due to extensive damage.

Ben Taub, one of our public hospitals, full to capacity; emergency room on diversion status except for extreme cases.

LBJ Hospital, damaged but still operating, another one of our public hospitals, full to capacity with emergency room operators up 260 percent compared to prestorm level.

Park Plaza, emergency room operations up 440 percent compared to prestorm levels.

Even though classes were out and summer school had not yet begun, our public schools were not spared. 155 of the 300 schools in Houston ISD suffered flood damage, with 13 of those sustaining substantial damage.

Other districts were not spared, either. North Forest ISD's schools and administration building suffered severe